

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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To Correspondents:

Write all communications, designed for publication, on one side of the paper only.

We want intelligent correspondents in every county in the State. We want facts of value, results accomplished of value, experience of value, plainly and briefly told. One solid, demonstrated fact, is worth a thousand theories.

The editor is not responsible for the views of correspondents.

RALEIGH, N. C., JUNE 28, 1898.

The Progressive Farmer is the Official Organ of the N. C. Farmers' State Alliance

The date on your label tells you when your time is out and serves as a receipt for all money sent us.



"I am standing now just behind the curtain, and in full glow of the coming sunset. Behind me are the shadows on the track, before me lies the dark valley and the river. When I mingle with its dark waters I want to cast one lingering look upon a country whose government is of the people, for the people, and by the people."—L. L. Polk, July 4th, 1890.

N. R. P. A.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The expression, "Rally 'round the flag, boys," is getting popular. The "sweet summer girls" are beginning to wear shirt-waists representing the flag.

Two weeks ago, a newspaper, not a thousand miles from Raleigh, clipped an editorial from this paper, inserted the name of that paper in the article and used it for its leading editorial (!). We wish to thank that editor for thus honoring us. We are always well pleased with an editorial which other papers consider worth stealing.

If true Populists control the next Legislature we will have lower freight and passenger rates. But don't deceive yourself into believing that a Democratic legislature will reduce rates. They studiously avoided, in their platform, saying whether or not they favored the reduction. The Populists endorsed the action of Commissioner Pearson in voting for the reduction; the Democrats did not. He is a Democrat, too, but not one the Southern Railway's kind. This accounts for their treatment of him.

The time for "laying by" crops is at hand and every farmer should now go to work to build up the Alliance. We have given reasons and every farmer knows reasons why this should be done. The thing to do is to tell your neighbors of these reasons. We have our preference as to political parties, but if farmers wish reforms they must organize and stand firm so that every political party will respect their wishes. The Farmer's Alliance was organized for the purpose of educating farmers to know their rights "and knowing, dare maintain them." Let every Allianced man resolve that the membership of his Sub-Alliance shall be doubled within the next three months and the good effects will soon be manifest.

It was only five years ago that the Columbian Fair at Chicago brought about a special display of international good-feeling between Spain and the United States, and many people remember, and perhaps have preserved some of the devices, printed at that time and circulated about the fair grounds, in which the Spanish and American flags were lovingly entwined. These look curiously impossible to day, when by a Spanish war the popular attention is probably diverted from another great national exposition, now in session, at Omaha, and second in size and importance only to the Chicago Exposition of 1893. The Exposition buildings at Omaha, covering a space of nearly two hundred acres, are extremely beautiful and imposing, and the quality and quantity of the exhibits make the event one in which the Western States can justly take great pride. In Harper's Weekly for June 18th are printed striking pictures, made from photographs, of the Trans-Mississippi Exposition, which seems to indicate that it is to be an immense affair.

REMEMBER!

Since the Democrats have deserted free silver (by refusing to endorse Bryan's plan and by refusing to co-operate to elect silver Congressmen), lower freight and passenger rates (by straddling this question and failing to endorse Commissioner Pearson) and other reforms, and know that they can no longer deceive the people regarding their position on these questions they attempt to delude the people with the hypocritical cry of "negro domination" and "negro postmasters." Let 'em cry! Let 'em holler! This cry will not deceive you if you do your own thinking.

Remember that when at their State Convention an opportunity was offered them to "get the white men of the State together," as they term it, by co-operation, THEY and not the Populist, REFUSED! Put this down in your note book. Call your neighbor's attention to it, and make the Hypocrites try to explain it away.

Their cry of "negro postmaster" is equally misleading. Who is it that appoints negro postmasters? Why, McKinley, of course. Yes, and who elected McKinley? The opponents of Bryan. And the opponents of Bryan and of Bryan's plans controlled the recent Democratic Convention. Populists voted almost solidly for Bryan. Had the Democrats done likewise Bryan would to day be President. Hence, we see that gold-standard Democrats are leaders in the North Carolina Democratic camp.

Keep posted. The rank and file of the Democratic party did not but gold, McKinley Democrats did control their recent convention the people are gradually learning the facts in the case. When they do so, they will rebel.

THE CASE IN A NUTSHELL.

North Carolina Democrats say they are in favor of free silver. Yet when an opportunity was offered to elect nine free silver Congressmen, they refused.

They say they are opposed to corporation rule. Yet they failed to endorse one of their own party, Railroad Commissioner Pearson, in his efforts to curtail the power of railroad corporations by reducing freight rates to the gold-standard level.

MERIT THE BEST CRITERION.

Last week we had something to say regarding President McKinley's methods of making appointments in the army. Having further investigated the matter, we do not care to modify a single expression in that editorial. Some newspapers defend the course of the government in this matter. Of course, it sounds very nice to say that the sons of great Federal generals are to fight under a Lee, and while the sentiment is all right, sentiment does not "cut much ice" when it comes to war in Cuba. For our part we are not yet ashamed to condemn the policy of appointing men to any army positions because of their fathers' fame.

In America, we have no hereditary titles and our people often and justly boast of it, but a title is all mere nothing when compared with a position in the army. If the Government is under any obligations to these sons, let it rather give them a title.

No, we are not yet ashamed to confess our belief that merit should be the criterion. Let us look at some of these appointments.

First, we find that to begin at the beginning, the son of our National Secretary of war Mr. Alger is appointed captain.

The son of ex President Harrison has been appointed major.

The son of Jas. G. Blain, captain.

The son of Jo in A. Logan, major.

The son of Muzrough Lee, first Lieutenant.

A son of Senator Foraker, a son of Senator Murphy and a son of Senator Sewall are made captains.

A son of Representative Catchings, captain.

A son of Representative Hull is Lieutenant-colonel.

A son of ex-Senator Gordon, major.

A son of ex-Senator Price, a son of ex-Senator Mitchell, and a son of the late Senator Earle, captains.

Then, too, here are the sons of the late Congressman Miliken, ex-Secretary Thompson, ex-Governor E. J. Davis, ex-Governor Woodbury, ex-Major Strong of New York, all with good positions in the army.

And in all the above list we are told by a reliable authority that the only officers of experience are—now don't think we will worry you with another long list, for in all this list we find only two officers of experience; Representative Miliken's son, who is a graduate of West Point, and Major Strong's son, who was a militia officer.

Besides the list of sons, there is a long list of nephews and grandsons of "men with influence" who go forth to command less fortunate, even if more

brainy, men who do not have "the pull" at Washington.

Will not even a cursory glance at the above list convince any one that the authorities at Washington are making a terrible mistake? It means either that they are trying to pay political debts with positions in the army or that they have not the backbone to refuse pleas of "men with influence," even when the good name of our country and the lives of her citizens are at stake.

Either is bad enough.

SELECT GOOD MEN.

As members of the legislature are to be elected this year we trust that it will not be out of order to utter a few words of warning. By all means select good men. Don't nominate men who are connected in any way with corporations, for while they may be capable in every way and good citizens so far as you know, experience proves that they generally lean away from the people. Don't select men who can be controlled by corporations, and don't select men who are too "conservative." They are always dangerous. Beware of the demagogue. He prates reform, but when the test comes he is as pliable as clay. Watch the early birds who pop up for the legislature. It is generally safe to let them alone. Don't nominate the man put forward by the ringsters. Find out who they want and then nominate some other person.

The last two legislatures contained a number of men who ought to be returned. But many more of the number ought to be left at home. Begin to think of their records and decide whether or not the number from your county deserves re-election.

We should not forget that the last two legislatures did some excellent work. Many of the most important bills were so good that even the opposing party could not criticize. It may not be out of place to mention a few bills that were passed, bills which met the approval of the masses generally. First of all the present election law ought to be mentioned. In 1894 that was the real State issue, and the law has worked so well that not one vote has been misplaced so far as we know.

Prior to the passage of this law the reverse was true. In a number of counties, under the old law and by free manipulations hundreds of voters could be changed from the majority to the minority, and it was done. Many votes were thrown away on silly technicalities and the voice of the voters of North Carolina was not recorded at all. After all, what are personal pledges or party pledges and platforms if the ballot is corruptly and dishonestly manipulated? You want men who will not change this election law in the next legislature.

The Alliance charter was restored. The six per cent. interest law was passed and has been of great advantage.

The law permitting county and other officials to give bond in security companies has been a great blessing. Prior to the passage of that law many of the best men in the State were debarred from office by bitter and dishonest partisan county commissioners. No matter how strong a bond might be those partisans could refuse it and put in men who had been defeated at the ballot box, and it was done in hundreds of cases. Now any man of good character can give bond in security companies (the best bonds in the world, too) and at a small cost. Now a man need not belong to the aristocracy nor the oligarchy to hold office in North Carolina, as was the case a few years ago. You want to elect a legislature this year that will not change the above laws, and many others not mentioned. Don't allow the supplies of the goldbugs nor the rantings of the silverites to cause you to lose sight of the above facts.

LATEST WAR NEWS.

On last Friday morning in a thicket overlooking the town of Santiago de Cuba, a battle was fought which resulted in the defeat of the Spaniards. Ten American soldiers were killed and forty wounded. The Spaniards occupied a very strong and entrenched position, but after an hour's fighting they retired toward Santiago, leaving the works in the hands of the Americans. Probably 50 Spaniards were killed. The Cuban's did not come to the rescue until the Spaniards had fled.

Of those who went with General Shafter only eighty are sick; no more than when in the United States. The only deaths have been two men drowned in landing.

The above are facts gleaned from General Shafter's official report.

On the 14th in a battle between the Cubans and Spaniards the loss was as follows: Spaniards, 200; Cubans, 9.

On Saturday evening the work of paying off the Second regiment in camp at Raleigh was completed. Privates received \$17.68 each; Captains \$170; First Lieutenants \$141.78, etc.

HOW IS IT, ANYWAY?

One day we find our daily exchanges deploring the fact that the State, the Nation, the world and everything in them are ruined because the negro is in control. The next day, if indeed you do not happen to find it in the following article of the same paper, you will find the negro is being deprived of all his rights, politically, socially and otherwise because he is not in control, and he is warned and begged and pleaded with in most pitiable tones, to behold how little influence he really does exert in comparison with the immense voting strength he is able to wield. The white voter is shown the negro in office and his prejudice, appeal to, to help knock him out. The negro is appealed to, by the same papers, to claim their rights, the offices, demand them, take them, hold them. They are told, and urged to believe they are worthy of them and ought to have them; and we expect to see negro candidates for Congress put out this year, by some of the bosses of these dailies, just as has been done before. While we have two white to every one negro voter, why so much ado?

A PATRIOT AT HOME.

The editor of the Watauga Democrat says he cannot go to Cuba unless he gets much madder than he is now. Accordingly he stays at home and assists in launching warships on the sea of matrimony. To show that this work is not altogether monotonous we clip the following "Rules and Regulations" from the last issue of his paper:

"It is very disagreeable to this court to be awaked at 2 o'clock in the morning to marry a couple, but such was our misfortune on last Tuesday night. "Service of this kind increases on us, and we will have to adopt more rigid rules and regulations. Parties desiring our services must hereafter appear before the court after supper, and not later than 9 o'clock for night services. Our regular fee of \$1 will be charged, but before or after the above time, double fees will be charged and no prayers offered. Widows and widowers, who have been married several times before, will be charged according to their several marriages at the discretion of the court. Young and ignorant couples will be married free of charge, but woe unto those old offenders. Colored 'troops' will be charged according to the crowds attending the services."

PROFITABLE PAINTING.

A short time ago we published a communication, giving the advice: "Paint the Farm Buildings." We gave this article our hearty editorial endorsement, for we believe then and still believe that the advice is good.

Too many of our farmers seem to think that buildings are painted merely to beautify them. To such we wish to emphasize the statement made by a Chicago paint dealer. On a high wall near his establishment in letters about ten feet long is this statement: "Paint Saves Money." And while speaking of this the following remarks of the Farmer's Voice are worth repeating: "It seems that most of the painting in the country has been done for effect rather than for the purpose of saving money, for while nearly every house is painted a good many barns and other outbuildings are allowed to stand to be weathered and worn out without being preserved by being kept covered with paint."

When barns were made of rough-sawn lumber it was a costly work to undertake to paint them, but in these days when all the lumber used is ship lap or regular weather boarding, planed and ready to paint, it is pretty costly to allow a building to stand unpainted.

Paint works in two ways to save buildings. The pigment used makes a hard coat to protect from the beating effects of the rains, and the oil fills the pores and prevents water from entering the wood and making minute cracks which soon become centers of decay and disintegration.

Roofs as well as sides of buildings should be painted, a roof made of good shingles and kept painted being practically indestructible. For outbuildings it is not necessary to buy the most expensive paints. What is known as "ironclad" paint is very cheap, and when put on with oil makes a hard coat, which prevents all damage. The writer has known a barn painted with "ironclad" to be saved from the flames, although but a few feet from another which burned, the paint preventing the wood from catching on fire. Use paint and save money.

"HONOR TO WHOM HONOR IS DUE."

In war times it is natural for a man to underestimate the courage and virtue of his foes. He thinks it is patriotic to do so. Gen. Blanco tells his Spanish friends that we are "a nation of nobodies," and we say the Span-

iards are brutal and heartless. In fact, since the war began we have not heard a man say that he believed there was in all Spain a single courageous, magnanimous Spaniard. Yet it is not at all smart to underestimate the courage of our foes. If we conquer them it will be much nicer to say that we conquered a great army of brave men, while if we were to be beaten by them in a single battle it would be humiliating to be compelled to confess that we were beaten by such cowards as some of us say the Spaniards are.

Yet it was so in the civil war. Down in Georgia, early in '61, for instance, a certain orator whom we will call Brown, made a speech in which he assured the boys that the Yankees couldn't shoot. He said they had been raised in ease and luxury and knew virtually nothing of the use of arms. As a result many of Brown's hearers volunteered. In a short while they ran upon a company of these Yanks who knew "nothing about guns," and presently the Georgians were behind trees; and Yankee bullets were peeling off the bark with wonderful rapidity. So well did the Yanks shoot that it was not safe for a man to poke his nose out from behind a tree. Then it was that a Georgian recalled Brown's speech and ventured to remark that if the Yanks didn't know how to shoot when Brown spoke, they "learned mighty doggone fast!"

Give honor to whom honor is due. To those who believe that no Spaniards are brave, the following extract from a letter from Admiral Dewey to a class mate, describing the battle of Manila may teach a lesson. He says: "I opened on the Spanish flagship, Maria Cristina, with my 8 inch guns at 5,800 yards. Every shot took effect. The Spanish Admiral Montji's fought his ships like a hero. He stood on his quarter deck until his ship was ablaze from stem to stern and absolutely sinking under his feet, then transferring his flag to the Iste de Cuba, he fought what was left of his fleet, standing fearlessly amid a hail of shrapnel, until his second ship and over 100 of her crew sank in a whirl of water like lead."

"It seems to me that history in its roll of heroes should make mention of an admiral who could fight his ships so bravely and stand on the bridge, coolly and calmly, when his fleet captain was torn to pieces by one of our shells at his side. I sent him a message telling him how I appreciated the gallantry with which he had fought his ships, and the deep admiration my officers and men felt for the commander of the Maria Cristina, who nailed his colors to his mast and then went down with his gallant crew. I think, my dear Norton, that had you witnessed this, as I did, you too would have sent the brave sailor the message I caused to be sent him, to which he responded most courteously."

THE PRESS ASSOCIATION.

The North Carolina Press Association held its annual meeting at Waynesville, Wednesday and Thursday, June 22nd and 23rd. This meeting was unusually well attended, due largely, no doubt, to the beauty and healthfulness of the place of meeting.

The "quill drivers" have seldom had such a pleasant meeting, and those who were there will never forget it. It seems to us that the people of Waynesville could not be more kind and hospitable. The scenery around Waynesville is—but we shall not attempt to describe it here, for it is beyond description. We shall, however, have something more to say about the country in our next issue, for those who live in the eastern and central parts of the State are sadly ignorant of the beauty of this region.

The Association received 36 new members this year. Last year the number was 23. This broke all previous records, but it will be seen that even this record was completely demolished this year, the number of new members being nearly 50 per cent. larger.

Messrs. Ramsey and Poe, of this paper, attended the meeting and were so well pleased with the climate and scenery that they did not return at once when the meeting adjourned. Hence our brief account.

NORTH CAROLINA STRAWBERRIES.

The strawberry season along the Atlantic Coast Line having closed several days ago, the record of the movement has been made up and it shows that shipment was 265,615 crates, or 8,496,680 quarts. The estimated average price noted for berries was 8 cents per quart, and the money value of the crop \$697,974.40. The shipment this season has exceeded that of last season by over 100,000 crates. The greatest shipment for any one day was on 3rd, when 18,989 crates were moved. The one day's shipment on the 3rd required 65 cars, which would make a train a half mile long.—Wil. Meas.

THE WEEKS WAR NEWS.

At Havana.

The famine has not been broken by the landing of supplies at Cienfuegos as reported. Flour selling at 50c. per lb., lard 50c., rice 20c., beans 25c., meat 75c., all other provisions in proportion. Nearly everything has been confiscated for use of troops, who are living on half rations, and supplies only for a short time at that.

There are five gunboats in the harbor, and work is being steadily pushed on the fortifications around the city. Captain General Blanco has been shot by a Spanish guard "in the left leg just above the thigh," says an exchange. He must have been standing on his head.

About Manila.

No news yet of landing of the expedition, which is anxiously awaited. The Cadiz fleet has departed, and been sighted in the Mediterranean Sea, and has passed through the Suez Canal and been sighted again in the Red Sea, on its way to Manila. By the time they reach there two other powerful gunboats will have joined Dewey's fleet, and about 10,000 troops will have arrived.

The Captain General of the Philippines has, it is reported, resigned, and Madrid advices give a gloomy picture of the outlook. The Spaniards are not able to stand against the insurgents, who are pressing them in on every side, and would take Manila, but Dewey objects until our troops arrive. The German fleet has been permitted by Dewey to land marines to protect foreign interests, which are threatened. Aginaldo, the insurgent leader, formally declared the independence of the Philippines on the 12th, at Cavite, with a great feast.

At Santiago.

Hobson and his crew are to be held because of their knowledge of the fortifications. Spain thinks what he knows should be kept from Sampson and Shafter.

Shafter has landed within 15 miles of the city with 16,000 troops. These are joined by 7,000 Cubans, and backed by Sampson's fleet. The Spanish retired after burning camps and towns, followed by our troops.

The forts at Caimiera, east of Santiago, have been destroyed, and the mines are being removed by our ships preparatory to taking the city.

The last cable has been cut, by which Cuba can reach the outside world, and our fleet has established a cable station near Santiago, by means of which the War Department is in direct communication with the fleet and the army.

After the landing of the troops at Baiguiri, last Thursday, pickets were thrown out and advance commenced. Soon it was discovered that Roosevelt's Rough Riders were in a nest of Spaniards, who attacked them from the bushes, killing and wounding quite a number. The Spaniards were driven from their hiding, with heavy losses. The Yankees moved on to the very threshold, almost, of the city.

FEWER ACRES; BETTER TILLAGE.

In our dairy department this week we publish the history of an 80-acre dairy farm which supports a herd of 30 cows which average 300 pounds of butter per year. This is an object lesson in the matter of "fewer acres and better tillage." In commenting on this article, Hoard's Dairyman emphasizes the following facts which should never be forgotten:

1. It takes more labor to farm two acres for the crop that ought to be raised on one.
2. It takes double the capital in land to farm two acres for a return that ought to be got from one.
3. It calls for double the wear in machinery to run over two acres for what should be got from one.

PUBLIC VS. CORPORATE MONOPOLY.

The farmer is vitally concerned in the government of cities. If light, power and transportation are supplied to cities by corporations that evade taxes and corrupt municipal councils, it imposes a double burden on the farmer—increased taxes and resistance to an immoral example, says the Farm and Home. The advocates of city, State or national ownership of public franchises assert with much truth that, even with all the evils of our political system, public ownership and operation could not be worse than the scandalous way in which American steam railway municipal franchises have been exploited. Switzerland has gone a step further and by a popular vote of two to one has decided to take over all the railroads, at a price of two-thirds their cost, one third being allowed for depreciation. The deal involves only 200 million dollars and affords no criterion for conditions in the United States, with its railway capital and debts of some 12,000 millions, and more than 180,000 miles of road doing a business of nearly \$10 millions annually.